(c) what are the reasons for the unsatisfactory performance stating the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Government of India started a Centrally sponsored scheme for assistance to 9-educationally backward States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal in 1979-80 for setting up and running Non-Formal Education Centres as an alternative supportive system to formal schooling. The scheme had two components, first, providing 50 per cent assistance to States for co-educational Non-Formal Education Centres an second, 100 per cent assistance to voluntary agencies for non-formal Centres. In 1983-84 the scope of the scheme was extended and assistance was offered to the 9-educationally backward States to the extent of 90 per cent for Non-Formal Education Centres exclusively for girls.

The VI Plan document did not fix a specific target for enrolment in NFE centres but it envisaged an enrolment level of 80 lakh learners to be achieved. However, the programme was actually implemented within the annual plan allocations made available for it an year to year basis during the VI Plan period. The scheme envisaged an enrolmment of 20 to 25 learners in a Non-Formal Education Centre. In all assistance was given for setting up 1.64 lakhs NFE Centres in the 9-States and an enrolment of 40.89 lakhs. Also, in an overall evaluation, made of the scheme at the end of the Sixth Plan, it was found that the level of attainment of learners in Non-Formal Education Centres is comparable to that in schools. Thus it would not be right to say that the programme of Non-formal education has failed. The evaluation made of the scheme has shown that the system has some weaknesses also, particularly in regard to appropriate location of centres in a state, timeliness in setting up a Centre after its sanction, timeliness in appointment of instructors and supervisors, supervisory arrangements and adequate supply of teaching-learning material to individual learners as envisaged in the scheme.

In the light of the weaknesses revealed in the evaluation, the Centrally sponsored scheme for non-formal education has been reviewed and restructured so that the aims defined for Non-Formal Education in the National Policy on Education can be attained.

Davis cup quarters final between India and Israel

361. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for Government's decision to allow India's Tennis team to play with Israel;

(b) whether this decision amounts to reversal of Government's policy and position in regard to Israel and other Islamic countries;

(c) whether protests have been registered by some countries; and

(d) if so, what is the nature of the protests and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d) In fulfilment of their binding obligation under the rules governing the Davis Cup Tournament, the All India Tennis Association decided to play with Israel. The Association ex-

plored the possibility of playing the match at a neutral venue but on finding that this was not possible, opted for the match being played in India. As this was a binding obligation related to the promotion of an important activity in the field of sports, the Government of India approved grant of visas to Israeli players and sports officials to enable the match to take place. India's consistent policy of support for the Arab countries and commitment to the Palestinian cause remains unchanged and has in no way been affected by this decision. India's position was explained to Arab and some other concerned Governments. Some of them expressed reservations about the decision. However, it is the Government's assessment that the rationale behind the decision has, by and large, been understood.

Implementation of New Education Policy

362. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of the New Education Policy has taken off the ground; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the progress of implementation (State-wise) till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) At a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education held on 25-26th June, 1987 to review the progress of the implementation of the New Education Policy, 1986, the Board noted with satisfaction that the Central Government had prepared detailed programmes in practically all spheres of priority and the State Governments had set up necessary mechanisms for seriously undertaking implementation of the Policy. It was also agreed that in the coming months, it will be necessary for the Central and State Governments to implement the Policy with much greater vigour and tenacity.

Conversion of railway line between Bangalore and Mysore

363. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the original estimate of the cost structure prepared by the Railway Board regarding the conversion of metre gauge railway line into broad gauge between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) whether the estimates have been revised; and

(c) when the work of conversion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rs. 14 crores.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Its completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.